

Ed Williams

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BY JOE PEDERSEN
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THE VILLAGES

In some stories, the answers to the mystery crackle through the airwaves. That's how the members of the Old-Time Radio Drama Club prefer to listen to them, and sometimes tell them.

Over the last 10 years, the club and a group within the club, The Villages Old-Time Radio Players, have been delivering tales of mystery and comedy through the medium of radio stage plays. On the first Thursday of every month, the club puts on a show at Savannah Center for those who feel nostalgia for story delivery of the past.

Ed Williams, of the Village of Virginia Trace, is the leader of the radio drama club and spoke with the Daily Sun about an upcoming show at Colony Cottage Recreation Center and what Villagers can expect.

What is old-time radio?

The classic radio programs from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Almost everyone had a radio at the time. It was a major source of entertainment for people. "Fibber McGee & Molly," that

How many people are involved in the club and the show?

We typically run six to eight actors on stage. I have a multitude of people in the club, so I can draw on various types of

CLUB'S NEXT PERFORMANCE

The next event is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Colony Cottage Recreation Center called "The Old Time Radio Show and Dessert Bar."

was a very big show in the 1940s. "My Favorite Husband" starred Lucille Ball before she was on television. The Villages Old-Time Radio Players, we re-create those shows, not only for our club but for the socials in the community in the regional recreation centers. We stick with mysteries and comedies.

Can you describe the show?

We have a series of actors stand on stage behind microphones as if they were in a studio. We have sound effects on recordings, music, and the movement of actors to emphasis the radio-side of

characters: an old guy, somebody with an accent or gruff.

Is there a cost?

It does requires a Villages ID, and we do request a \$1 donation.

story-telling. You could literally sit back, close your eyes and listen to these programs of bygone days of yesteryear.

How did you and others get into this hobby?

Given I'm 78, I grew up listening to these shows. I worked in broadcast engineering, so I was more behind the scenes before I got to The Villages. I found out about the Old-Time Radio Club when I got here, and they would play old recordings. I thought it would be fun if we performed those. Eventually, I took over, and we started a players group 10 years ago and got with local actors. They came in and would do a show for us.

What do Villagers need to bring with them to meetings?

Their memories. That's all they need, and the attitude of looking forward to an evening with entertainment, snacks and fun games.

If anyone is interested in joining the club, when do you meet?

We meet at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Savannah Center. So the next time we meet is June 1.